

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1280

Introduced by Assembly Member Liu

February 21, 2003

An act to amend Sections 32603 and 32604 of the Public Resources Code, relating to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1280, as introduced, Liu. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Existing law provides for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

This bill would add a provision to the definition of the territory of the conservancy to clarify that the conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy may enter into a memorandum of agreement to pursue joint projects. The bill would also revise the provision describing the duties of the conservancy to refer to the San Gabriel Valley Water Association instead of the San Gabriel Valley Watermaster.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 32603 of the Public Resources Code is
2 amended to read:
3 32603. As used in this division, the following terms have the
4 following meaning:

1 (a) “Board” means the governing board of the San Gabriel and
2 Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

3 (b) “Conservancy” means the San Gabriel and Lower Los
4 Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The conservancy
5 may also be known as the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

6 (c) (1) “Territory” means the territory of the conservancy that
7 consists of those portions of Los Angeles County and Orange
8 County located within the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the
9 lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel
10 Mountains, including, without limitation, all of the following:

11 (A) The hydrologic basin or watershed that coincides with the
12 upper San Gabriel River watershed, including the Upper Rio
13 Hondo tributary, but not including any land area within the Santa
14 Monica Mountains Conservancy as described in Chapter 2
15 (commencing with Section 33100) and Chapter 3 (commencing
16 with Section 33200) of Division 23. The hydrologic basin or
17 watershed is bounded by the San Gabriel Mountains to the north,
18 the San Jose Hills to the east, the Puente Hills to the south, and by
19 a series of hills and the Raymond Fault to the west.

20 (B) The hydrologic basin or watershed that coincides with the
21 lower San Gabriel River watershed.

22 (C) The San Gabriel Mountains, including the Foothills
23 Mountains Conservancy and the Puente Hills and San Jose Hills
24 area, except any land area within the Santa Monica Mountains
25 Conservancy as described in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section
26 33100) and Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 33200) of
27 Division 23.

28 (D) The hydrologic basin or watershed that coincides with the
29 lower Los Angeles River south of the northernmost boundary of
30 the City of Vernon, as of June 1, 1999, except any land area within
31 the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, as described in Chapter
32 2 (commencing with Section 33100) and Chapter 3 (commencing
33 with Section 33200) of Division 23.

34 (E) *Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Rivers and*
35 *Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains*
36 *Conservancy from entering into a memorandum of agreement to*
37 *pursue joint projects.*

38 (2) To assist persons in understanding the breadth of the
39 territory included within the territory described in paragraph (1),



the Legislature declares that that territory includes the territory in all of the following cities and areas:

(A) The territory within the city boundaries, as of January 1, 2000, of the following cities: Alhambra, Anaheim, Arcadia, Artesia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Bradbury, Brea, Buena Park, Cerritos, Claremont, Commerce, Compton, Covina, Cudahy, Cypress, Diamond Bar, Downey, Duarte, El Monte, Fullerton, Glendora, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, Industry, Irwindale, La Habra, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, La Palma, La Puente, La Verne, Lakewood, Long Beach, Los Alamitos, Lynwood, Maywood, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Placentia, Pomona, Rosemead, San Dimas, San Gabriel, Santa Fe Springs, Seal Beach, Signal Hill, South El Monte, South Gate, Temple City, Vernon, Walnut, West Covina, and Whittier.

(B) The unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and Orange County adjacent to the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, the San Gabriel Mountains, the Foothill Mountains, the Puente Hills, and the San Jose Hills area including, but not limited to, East Los Angeles.

(d) Nothing in this section shall affect the jurisdiction of any other state conservancy.

SEC. 2. Section 32604 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

32604. The conservancy shall do all of the following:

(a) Establish policies and priorities for the conservancy regarding the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River, and their watersheds, and conduct any necessary planning activities, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602.

(b) Give priority to river related projects that create expanded opportunities for recreation, greening, aesthetic improvement, and wildlife habitat along the corridor of the river, and in parts of the river channel that can be improved for the above purposes without infringing on water quality, water supply, and necessary flood control.

(c) Approve conservancy funded projects that advance the policies and priorities set forth in Section 32602.

(d) Prepare a San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Parkway and Open Space Plan to be approved by a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, and by the Central Basin Water Association and the San Gabriel Valley ~~Watermaster~~ *Water Association*. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following elements:

(1) A determination of the policies and priorities for the conservation of the San Gabriel River and its watershed, the Lower Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel Mountains, in accordance with the purposes of the conservancy as set forth in Section 32602.

(2) A plan for incorporating, as relevant, the principles and planning work contained within the Los Angeles River Master Plan prepared by the County of Los Angeles.

(3) An identification of underused existing public open spaces and recommendations for providing better public use and enjoyment in areas identified in the plan.

(4) An identification of, and a priority program for implementing, those additional low-impact recreational and open space needs, including additional or upgraded facilities and parks that may be necessary or desirable.

